

REPLAY NEAR—THEN KETTERING STRIKE

By ARGUS

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Kettering Town 2

THE inevitable—feared by Wycombe supporters from start to finish—knocked the Wanderers out of the F.A. Cup. Continually given too much room in which to move by the home full-backs Kettering Town's speedy wing men did what they had always threatened to do—score the winner—just when hundreds of thoughts were turning to Thursday afternoon funerals and business conferences in Kettering!

Dark, dapper Hugh Morrow fled down the right wing with Dennis Atkins at his heels. Over came the centre, curling over goalkeeper Ken Brown's head, and left-winger Harry Walden, with the width of a cricket pitch in which to manoeuvre calmly headed the ball inside the post.

Exit—but what a glorious exit—for the Wanderers. Playing with virtually ten men for most of the game, after little Steve Hyde had been battered in a tackle and had injured a leg, Wycombe made a thrilling second half rally which culminated in Dave Thomas shooting a 30 yards equaliser which had the whole team jumping for joy.

At this stage—in the 58th minute—Wycombe really looked as if they were going to pluck the "Poppies". No man flogged himself harder than Wycombe skipper Paul Bates, who made fellow England international John Harding look a novice.

Kettering's defence looked to be tottering at times but always a red shirt superimposed itself between Bates, Worley, Holmes and the goal.

Sadly for home cup hopes, centre - forward Sheldon Bressington was out of his class against pivot Mike Quigley. They might have been handcuffed together.

On balance of play, enthusiasm and missed opportunities, Wycombe were unlucky to lose. Kettering were undeniably the stronger, the more compact team but they have never had to fight harder in their impressive league and cup run.

His wonderful equalising goal apart, Dave Thomas—elegant and precise in all he did—was the outstanding Wycombe defender comparing more than favourably with ex-England player Jack Froggatt, John Fisher too played steadily at centre-half and Ken Brown, although partly responsible for Kettering's first goal, made some splendid saves.

SUICIDAL

Yet it was a suicidal Fisher back pass which nearly gave bustling Town the opening goal they badly needed. Brown grabbed the ball just in time as McGill broke fast for the net.

Then Kettering fans muttered words which would have startled Eliza Doolittle as inside-right Bernard Shaw fluffed the simplest of chances. As Wycombe retaliated Bressington was equally slow to meet Hyde's cross after a Town defender had blatantly miskicked.

Both sides could have gone ahead before Brown dropped Walden's centre in the 28th min-

ute and the alert Morrow hooked the ball in.

The Wanderers, began the second half in great style. John Beck moved up to crash the ball wide after Worley's dribble had been desperately blocked and the Kettering goal had a perilous existence before Thomas equalised.

The game boiled as both teams flung everything into attack. Pearson shot over for Kettering after two drives had been stopped in the Wycombe goalmouth and Bates wrongfooted several defenders before goalkeeper Smethurst saved with a low dive. The came Walden's breakaway winner and a confident Kettering finish which had the red rosettes fluttering

Hyde injury ends hope

By MARSHALL FALLOWS

Wycombe W. 1 Kettering 2

A FIRST-HALF injury to Steve Hyde, a much-sought 16-year-old outside left, ended amateur Wycombe's hope of edging the Southern League professionals from Kettering out of the Cup.

It also disappointed scouts from three of the five League clubs who are showing a big interest in Hyde.

The scouts, however, switched their attentions to Dave Thomas, a slim, 19-year-old right half who has already been offered a trial by Fulham.

And Thomas rounded off a polished performance with a sizzling 20-yard goal in the 58th minute.

Kettering, under the generalship of player manager Jack Froggatt—19 times an England player while at Portsmouth—had the game's outstanding forward in winger Hugh Morrow, who scored the first goal (28) and made the slide-rule centre from which Harry Walden (77) headed the winner.